the number of Schedule Castes, Adivasis and most backward classes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The appointment of distributors/dealers of fertilizers is done by the individual fertilizer manufacturing/trading company keeping in view, *inter alia*, their commercial and marketing needs in different States. Various fertilizers companies have been adopting their own criteria for appointment of distributors. However, the license for distribuitorship is given by the respective State Governments.

(b) There are nearly 31,898 distributors/dealers of fertilizers of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country. The two Multi-State Cooperative Societies namely IFFCO and KRIBHCO do not appoint distributors for sales of fertilizers but sell fertilizers only through State cooperative channels/institutional agencies. However, for private sector, Government do not maintain their data in respect of distributorship.

(c) The Government had issued instruction in Septemeber 78 only to PSUs to reserve 25% of appointment of dealers for fertilizers for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs).

(d) There are about 2,870 fertilizers distributors/dealers of PSUs in Bihar including 176 dealers belonging to SCs, Adivasis and most backward classes.

Use of dirty dozen toxic Chemicals

2156. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 120 countries have agreed to outlaw or minimize the use of the 'dirty dozen' toxic chemicals blamed for causing fatal diseases and birth defects among humans and animals;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. An international legally binding instrument, namely the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), has been adopted recently to initiate international action to protect human health and environment through measures and to eliminate emissions and discharge of twelve POPs. As per available inforamtion, 93 States and Regional Economic Integration Organization have signed the Convention.

(b) to (d) India adopted the Convention and signed the Final Act on May 23, 2001. The following steps have been taken by the Government.

Out of 12 POPs chemicals, 6 chemicals (aldrin, chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, toxaprene, hexachlorobenzene) have been banned whereas 2 chemicals (DDT and dieldrin) are under restricted use. The pesticide Mirex is not registered in India. Polychlorinated biphenyls are not produced in our country. Dioxins and Furans are unintended by-products.

Export of Drugs

2157. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of export of drugs from the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the main items of exports from the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve export of drugs from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The value of exports of drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals during the last two years has been as under: